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11 September 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Strategic Research

SUBJECT : Dr. John S. Foster's Request for  
Intelligence Support to the  
Institute for Defense Analysis

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1. [REDACTED] and I have had two meetings with IDA people on the Soviet R&D project they are doing for the DDR&E. We learned a bit more about the scope of the study and we tried to impress on them the nature of the evidence and its limitations for doing the kind of analysis Dr. Foster wants.

2. Specifically, Dr. Foster wants an estimate of Soviet outlays for military R&D based on direct costing of Soviet facilities and programs. His deadline of 15 November is related to the budget cycle: the DDR&E proposals for FY 71 are to go to Secretary Laird by 1 December. His reasons for turning to IDA to do the study seems to be related to a desire for an independent survey of the evidence and methods of analysis, so that he can have increased confidence in the estimates and--hopefully--can relate them more directly to U.S. R&D and outlays by mission and weapons system.

3. As you know, the goal of direct costing of R&D observables is one we share with him, and is the reason for the formation of the Technical Resources Branch and the closer working relationships we are establishing within the community on Soviet R&D resources and facilities. It is unlikely that much new work along these lines can be completed by 15 November, though we can go part of the way by explicitly documenting some of the work we have done in the last year.

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4. I think we have to be particularly careful to see that the analysis done by IDA does not go well beyond the evidence, and to keep ourselves relatively free to comment on the conclusions of the study. Beyond that, however, I propose to work--in conjunction with the DDS&T and DIA--in close support of IDA on evidential matters, and to try to use this time and experience to advance our own analysis and experience. [REDACTED] and his people can devote almost full time on this in the next two months.

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Chief

Programs Analysis Division, OSR

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cc: [REDACTED]

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